

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following headings on page 1, line 3:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Field of the invention:

Please insert the following heading on page 1, line 9:

**Description of the Related Art**

Please insert the following heading on page 3, line 5:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

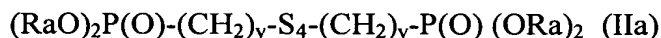
Please insert the following heading on page 3, line 20:

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, starting at line 20 and ending on line 33:

The phosphonate compounds corresponding to the formula (II) in which  $z = 4$  and R is an alkyl  $R_a$  can be prepared, for example, by the following process:

- during a first stage, the trialkyl phosphite  $P(ORa)_3$  (VI) is reacted with the ~~dibromoalkylene~~ dibromoalkane  $Br-(CH_2)_y-Br$  (VII) at a temperature of the order of  $140^\circ C$  in order to obtain  $Br-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$  (VIII),
- during a second stage, the phosphonate  $Br-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$  (VIII) is reacted with  $Na_2S_4$  under reflux of the methanol. A product is obtained having a mean composition corresponding to the formula



in which Ra is an alkyl.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5 at line 17 and ending on line 29:

A phosphate (IIIa) corresponding to the mean formula (III) in which R is H can be obtained by a process in which:

- during a first stage,  $P(O)Cl_3$  is reacted with a compound  $HO(CH_2)_yCl$  in stoichiometric proportions in order to obtain the compound  $Cl(CH_2)_yOP(O)Cl_2$ ;
- during a second stage, the compound  $Cl(CH_2)_yOP(O)Cl_2$  is hydrolyzed in order to obtain the compound  $Cl(CH_2)_yOPO_3H_2$ ;
- during a third stage,  $Cl(CH_2)_yOPO_3H_2$  is reacted with  $Na_2S_4$  under reflux of the methanol and then an ion exchange is carried out in order to obtain the compound

$[[(\text{HO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_z-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{O}-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OH})_2]]$   $(\text{HO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_4-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{O}-$   
 $\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OH})_2$ .